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**March 4, 2019**

The Daily Mississippian

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MONUMENT  
RESOLUTION HEADS  
TO SENATE FLOOR

ASB Senate will vote on Tuesday night on a resolution to move the statue from the Circle to the Confederate cemetery.  
SEE PAGE 3



FIVE YEARS LATER,  
HOZIER IS BACK

Though fans haven't heard a full album from Hozier since "Cherry Wine" climbed the charts in 2014, "Wasteland, Baby!" is just as good. Read assistant arts & culture editor Eliza Noe's review online.  
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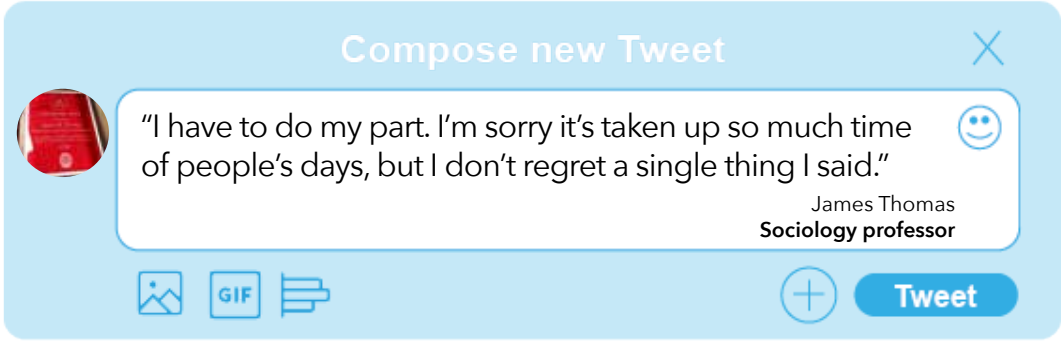
SOFTBALL SWEEPS  
OLE MISS CLASSIC

Ole Miss hosted its first home games of the season over the weekend, picking up four wins before having Sunday's game canceled.  
SEE [THEDMONLINE.COM](#)

‘Tweets are my own.’  
How James Thomas’s online presence sparked a conversation about academic freedom



PHOTO: DEVNA BOSE  
Ole Miss sociology professor James Thomas has received backlash from hundreds of people, including the former chancellor of the University of Mississippi Jeffrey Vitter, for controversial tweets posted on his Twitter account, bringing to light the issue of academic freedom and how far it extends on campus.



DEVNA BOSE  
DMMANAGING@GMAIL.COM

James Thomas’s nose crinkles when he smiles, which is more often than his Twitter followers might think. “I get the sense that people who don’t know me well think that there’s this sociologist on campus who puts out these confrontational things, a one-note person,” he said. “I’m not that. I’m a very good classroom instructor. I’m really good at my job.”

The sociology professor has taught at the University of Mississippi since August 2012 and has been on Twitter since February 2011. Since the creation of his Twitter profile, with the intentional handle @Insurgent\_Prof, Thomas has tweeted about 18,600 times and has garnered 1,651 followers.

His profile biography, short and to the point, states, “Husband. Father. Sociologist. Sower of Discourse. Slayer of Nazis. Author of books. #ActualSocialScientist making it in Mississippi. Tweets are my own.”

Though Thomas most closely relates with the former identifiers in his biography, the latter is the most important, especially as of late.

Thomas, an outspoken “sower of discourse” on Twitter and no stranger to online controversy, was denounced by the online and university communities last semester for a tweet that later drew a response from the FBI.

On Oct. 6, 2018, Thomas tweeted, “Don’t just interrupt a senator’s meal, y’all. Put your whole damn fingers in their salads. Take their apps and distribute them to the other diners. Bring boxes and take their food home with you on the way out. They don’t deserve your civility.”

The tweet came a few minutes after and was a response to Thomas’s retweet of a post made by NBC’s Joe Scarborough that said, “Don’t yell at senators, don’t shout at people in restaurants, don’t rage on about past votes.”

The tweets began to pour in, as did hundreds of concerned emails to then-Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter. As revealed in a public records request, people from all over the country, including donors and alumni, emailed Vitter about the tweet in the weeks following. In Vitter’s inbox, parents threatened to take Ole Miss off their sons’ and daughters’ prospective college lists, and alumni threatened to halt donations to the university, imploring the chancellor to take a strictly condemnatory stance. Many even requested the professor’s firing.

“(Thomas) has besmudged the good name of Ole Miss. I’m calling for you, as leader of this hallowed university, to terminate his employment immediately,” one email from Oct. 17 read.

In January, representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigations visited Thomas in response to his then-three-month-old tweet. Thomas said the men were “just doing their jobs” and described them as “very nice,” but he wondered who pressured the FBI to come to his office. Some of his critics on Twitter tagged the FBI in their posts.

Thomas said his tweet was a reaction to the news circulating at that time, like the Brett Kavanaugh Supreme Court hearing.

On Oct. 13, the Our State Flag Foundation’s Facebook page shared its first screenshot of Thomas’s

SEE **THOMAS** PAGE 4



THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN  
EDITORIAL STAFF:

**SLADE RAND**  
*editor-in-chief*  
dmeditor@gmail.com

**DEVNA BOSE**  
*managing editor*  
dmmanaging@gmail.com

**MEGAN SWARTZFAGER**  
*copy chief*  
thedmcopy@gmail.com

**TAYLOR VANCE**  
*news editor*  
**HADLEY HITSON**  
**GRIFFIN NEAL**  
*assistant news editors*  
thedmnews@gmail.com

**JUSTIN DIAL**  
*sports editor*  
**JOSHUA CLAYTON**  
*assistant sports editor*  
thedmsports@gmail.com

**CHRISTIAN JOHNSON**  
*photography editor*  
**KATHERINE BUTLER**  
*assistant photography editor*  
thedmphotos@gmail.com

**LIAM NIEMAN**  
*arts & culture editor*  
**ELIZA NOE**  
*assistant arts & culture editor*  
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

**HAYDEN BENGE**  
**MACKENZIE LINNEEN**  
**MEAGAN TAPE**  
*design editors*  
thedmdesign@gmail.com

**ETHEL MWEDZIWENDIRA**  
*opinion and design editor*  
thedmopinion@gmail.com

**SARAH HENDERSON**  
*multimedia editor*

**ANNIE SHARP**  
*online editor*  
thedmonlineeditor@gmail.com  
**IVANA NGUYEN**  
*social media editor*  
thedmsocialmedia@gmail.com

**ADVERTISING**  
**SALES MANAGER**  
Rebecca Brown  
dmads@olemiss.edu

**SALES ACCOUNT**  
**EXECUTIVES**  
Cameron Collins  
Sam Dethrow  
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Michael Rackers  
Morgan Stone

**S. GALE DENLEY**  
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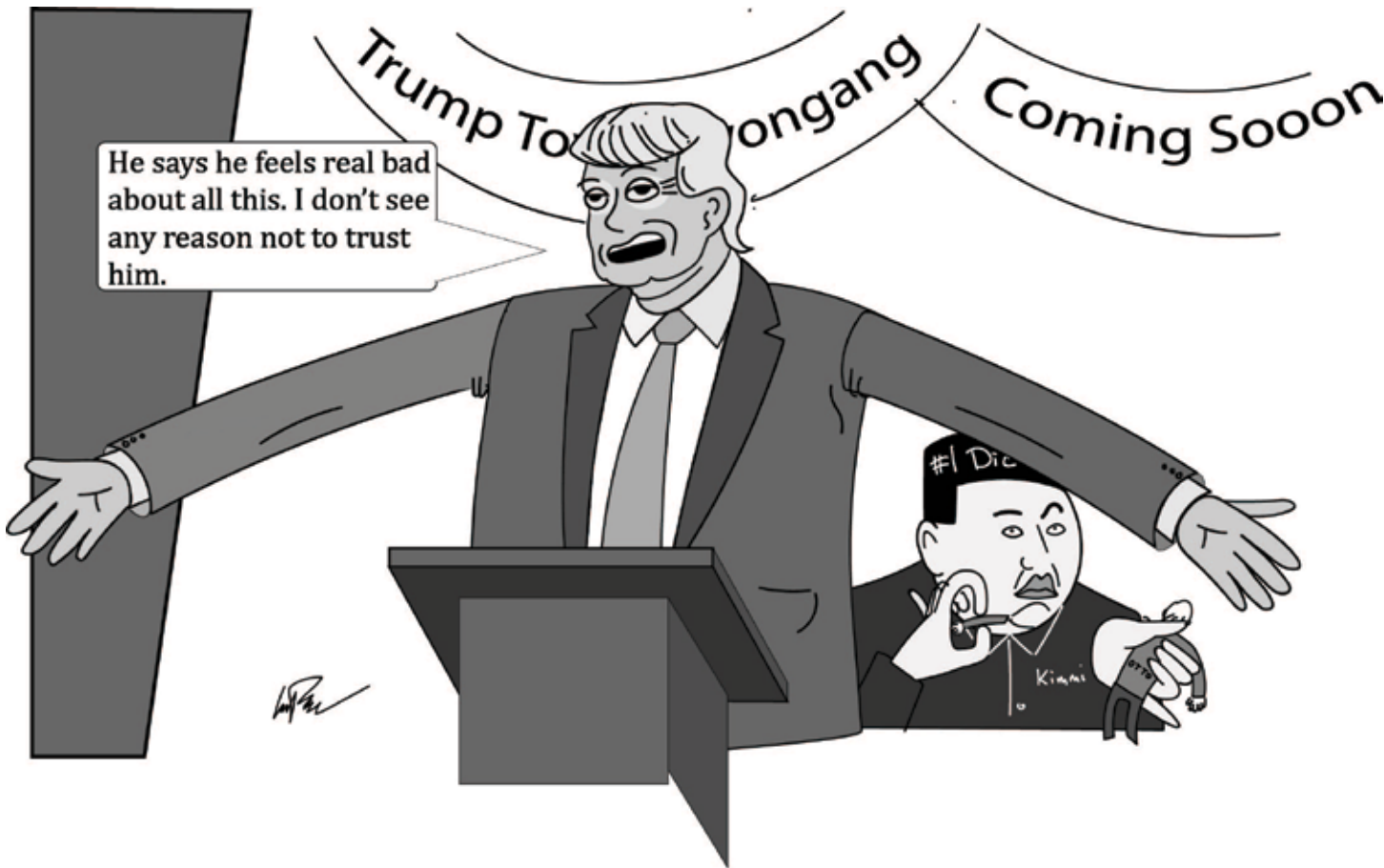
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COLUMN

# Smearing of Omar isn't about anti-Semitism



**SUAD PATTON-BEY**  
THEDMOPINION@GMAIL.COM

Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar has been in hot water recently, with accusations of anti-Semitism coming from both parties.

The controversy erupted last month after Omar tweeted, “It’s all about the Benjamins baby,” suggesting that the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) is behind American lawmakers support for Israel.

However, that wasn’t the first time Omar criticized Israel on Twitter. In 2012, Omar tweeted, “Israel has

hypnotized the world, may Allah awaken the people and help them see the evil doings of Israel. #Gaza #Palestine #Israel.”

She has since apologized for and deleted the problematic tweets, but that hasn’t satisfied her critics, particularly from the right.

An Islamophobic sign made by the Republican Party of West Virginia and falsely linking the congresswoman to the 9/11 attacks was posted at the Capitol. The same party accusing Omar of perpetuating anti-Semitic myths felt it was completely appropriate to do the same to Muslims.

Last Wednesday, Omar spoke at a town hall event expressing her concern that she was being unfairly punished because of her religion and the stereotype that Muslims are inherently anti-Semitic.

“I want to talk about the political influence in this

country that says it is OK for people to push for allegiance to a foreign country,” the Democratic congresswoman said.

Her comments were met with hostility and criticism from House Foreign Affairs Committee member Democratic Rep. Eliot Engel of New York, who demanded that Omar apologize for her “vile, anti-Semitic slur.”

The truth is that AIPAC is a powerful organization whose financial influence does play a crucial role in American politics. Like the NRA and other organizations, AIPAC spends lots of money on lobbying, spending more than \$3.5 million in 2018 alone. On its website, AIPAC credits the U.S. Congress with providing Israel with “the strongest support of any institution in the world.”

Of course, the alliance between the U.S. and Israel can’t be reduced to just dollars. The two countries share similar values and

maintain complementary interests in the Middle East, but it would be naive to assume that money plays no role. In this world, money really does talk.

The smearing of Omar by both parties isn’t about anti-Semitism. It’s about silencing any criticism of the Israeli government, especially its treatment of Palestinian civilians and its building of illegal settlements. It has become a trend to label any criticism of Israel or AIPAC as anti-Semitic, which is extremely problematic.

Standing up to injustice shouldn’t be a zero-sum game. Anti-Semitism is real, and it is on the rise globally. But that doesn’t mean we can’t fight for the basic human rights of the Palestinian people. We can do both — we must do both. *Suad Patton-Bey is a senior journalism major from Oxford.*

## THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

S. Gale Denley Student Media Center  
201 Bishop Hall,  
P.O. Box 1848  
University, MS  
38677-1848

Main Number: 662.915.5503  
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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or “name withheld” will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

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MEMBER NEWSPAPER



# Statue relocation resolution moves to final ASB vote

DANIEL PAYNE  
HADLEY HITSON  
THEDMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

The Associated Student Body Senate resolution calling for the relocation of the Confederate monument from the Circle to the Confederate cemetery passed the ASB Rules Committee on Thursday night, which means the Senate will hold a final vote at its meeting Tuesday evening.

The resolution states that Confederate ideology “violates the tenets of the University Creed” and that the monument’s current placement undermines the university’s mission “to maintain an inclusive and safe environment.”

ASB Sen. Katie Dames, one of the resolution’s authors, said the committee “checked all the boxes” to make sure the resolution used correct legal language and was thoroughly researched.

Dames researched and wrote the resolution alongside Sen. Jarvis Benson, Sen. Charlotte Armistead, Sen. Arielle Hudson, Leah Davis, Tyler Yarborough, John Chappell and Sen. Dalton Hull.

“This has been an extensive and collaborative process, and I am excited to introduce potential for a positive transformation on this campus,” Dames said.



PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER

The Confederate cemetery lies between the Tad Smith Coliseum and the Manning practice facility.

According to the resolution, Mississippi law allows a “governing body” to relocate the monument, but it is not clear what governing body that should be.

In October 2017, Mississippi’s Deputy Attorney General Mike Lanford said Confederate monuments can be relocated as long as they remain on similar public property.

The resolution’s authors

conducted their research by speaking to historians who were members of the now-disbanded Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on History and Context, an expert on race relations from the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation and the director for the Center for Inclusion and Cross-Cultural Engagement as well as by collecting student feedback.



PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER

An Associated Student Body resolution calling for the relocation of the Confederate monument from the Circle passed the ASB Rules Committee on Thursday night.


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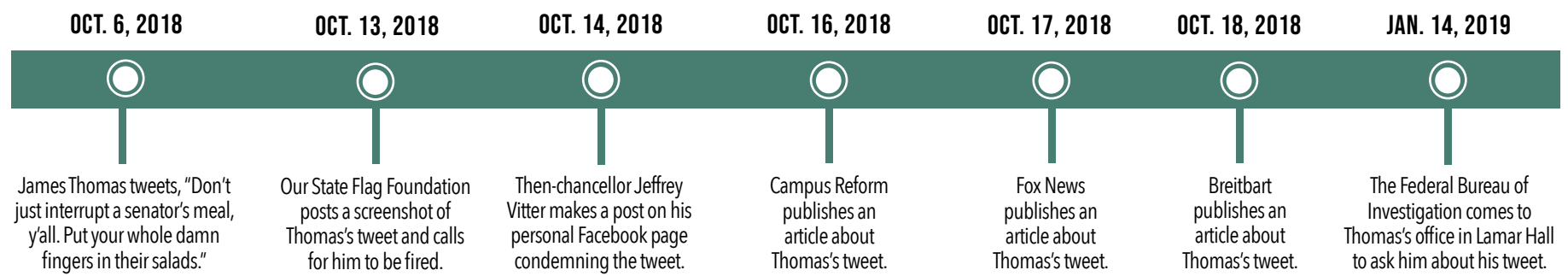
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# REACTIONS TO THOMAS’S TWEET



## THOMAS

*continued from page 1*

tweet that gained considerable traction online and called for Thomas to be fired from the university, describing Thomas as a “radical agitator” who was “calling for outright uncivil illegal harassment.”

More than a week after Thomas’s initial Twitter post, Vitter condemned it on his personal Facebook page on Oct. 14 without naming Thomas himself.

“A recent social media post by a UM faculty member did not reflect the values articulated by the university, such as respect for the dignity of each individual and civility and fairness,” Vitter’s post read. “While I passionately support free speech, I condemn statements that encourage acts of aggression.”

Thomas said university administration did not reach out to him prior to the chancellor’s post, and Thomas was “infuriated” when he first saw it.

“I was livid,” he said. “A chancellor’s first responsibility is to the institution and his faculty and his students. It’s not to your donors or any people outside of the university who claim they have a stake in it. It’s to the people on this campus. Period.”

Thomas claims his tweet

didn’t “go viral” until the then-chancellor’s response. After Vitter’s Facebook post, Thomas said, his tweet was picked up by conservative news outlet Campus Reform and then by Fox News and Breitbart. Over the course of the next two or three weeks, Thomas got “roughly 90 voicemails” from people from all over the country. One person found his personal cellphone number.

“I wasn’t expecting the huge response. I didn’t quite literally mean it. I meant confront your elected official in public,” he said. “I think, with the rare exception of people who post comments on online forums, most people understood what I was saying. I wasn’t going to ask people to strike others.”

A security guard was hired for “about a week” to patrol Lamar Hall, where Thomas’s office is located, after the university received emails that included some threats. Thomas said administration was aware of the hire.

“There were calls that were alarming. There were enough threats being made in online comment sections that our department chair and UPD felt it best to have an officer on our floor and a vehicle patrol around our building,” Thomas said. “Other people in our department were feeling concerned about coming to work.”

Thomas’s tweet also came a

few weeks after the namesake of the University of Mississippi School of Journalism and New Media, Ed Meek, made a sexist and racist Facebook post, which garnered a response from university administration and the campus in the days and weeks following. Meek’s name has since been removed from the journalism school. Many compared Meek’s post with Thomas’s, which Thomas thinks is “absurd.”

“Somehow, these two things have been flattened and equivocated, which is a disservice to people ... and endangers people because of what it does to minimize racism and sexism themselves,” Thomas said.

In an email addressed to university senior leadership with the subject line “‘Back pocket’ talking points” and revealed to The Daily Mississippian in a public records request, Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Communications and Marketing Jim Zook addressed the comparison to Meek’s post and Thomas’s tweet. He said the university “would like to do all that we can ... but we have to be careful and deliberate since free speech is one of the most fundamental rights of an individual and academic freedom one of the fundamental rights of a faculty member.”

Additionally, the UM Race Diary Project was released four days after Thomas’s tweet

but four days before Vitter’s response to it. The UM Race Diary Project is the culmination of a year-long collaboration between four sociology professors, including Thomas, that analyzes and highlights race-related microaggressions at the university during the 2014-15 academic year. Vitter responded to the research in a column to the DM on Oct. 11.

In an interview with The Chronicle for Higher Education in early November 2018, chairman of the university faculty senate Brice Noonan

said that the fallout from the Thomas tweet and the report on microaggressions made things “a bit crazy” on campus.

Thomas is no stranger to controversy on social media. As the faculty advisor for the University of Mississippi chapter of the NAACP and a civil rights activist, Thomas was involved in the “Take Down the Flag” protests on campus in 2015. During that time, Thomas made equally controversial posts, and the Our State Flag Foundation made posts about him, too. But prior to this, the



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**Carl Schoner** @Dreampsycles · 18 Oct 2018

This moronic imbecile of a University of Mississippi assistant professor by the name of James Thomas ( [@Insurgent\\_Prof](#) ) should be scrubbing toilets in the men's room and NOT teaching our kids.

5

14

31



**Colby Wakefield** @C\_Wakefield5 · 15 Oct 2018

Replying to [@Insurgent\\_Prof](#)

Hey [@UMchancellor](#) is this the legacy you want to leave at the University of Mississippi? Absolutely disgusting. If you want to teach tolerance then this professor needs to be GONE because this is hate.

12

90

183



**Mr. Deplorable** @SidneyPenny1 · 18 Oct 2018

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2

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7



**Ole Miss** @olemisswyer22 · 18 Oct 2018

You're a clown [@Insurgent\\_Prof](#)

2

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“I wasn’t expecting the huge response. I didn’t quite literally mean it. I meant confront your elected official in public. I think, with the rare exception of people who post comments on online forums, most people understood what I was saying. I wasn’t going to ask people to strike others.”

James Thomas  
**Sociology professor**

James Thomas was visited by representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation in January, three months after his initial controversial tweet.

university had never reacted. Thomas said that when Vitter published the post about him, it broke a certain chain of command that exists on the university level.

Thomas emphasized that Vitter's statement reflected no understanding of what the role of the institution is in promoting academic freedom and expression.

University of Mississippi  
Communications declined to  
respond to questions about  
Vitter for this article.

Southern author Kiese Laymon, a university English professor, thinks that the administration should always protect faculty who are trying to use their words to “honor, explore and protect vulnerable people.”

“I still haven’t heard from anyone why what JT said was wrong,” Laymon said. “You can’t have two armed

Confederate soldiers greeting people when they come to town and the Square and plenty of buildings named for violent segregationists and then somehow attempt to call out alleged violence from a member of your faculty. The institution and town taught us that violence here gets commemorated.”

Laymon published a satirical tweet on Sept. 12, 2018, about a month before Thomas's controversial tweet, referring to President Donald Trump as having a "juicy booty" and was also circulated by Campus Reform.

“Folks didn’t like that,”  
Laymon said.

Laymon added that the nature of his job brings “threats from encrypted email addresses or actual mail” as well.

"I'm not even sure what academic freedom means," he said. "I've been getting threats

for almost a decade, and none of the institutions I've worked at have done much to counter those threats."

According to Rod Guajardo, associate director of strategic communications for the university, the university's policy on academic freedom, which was last updated in 2011, endorses the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure of the AAUP. The AAUP's statement says that teachers are entitled to "full freedom" in research and the research's publication. Additionally, teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject and, when speaking as citizens, "should be free from institutional censorship or discipline." The university's policy, according to Guajardo, also endorses the Statement on Professional Ethics issued by AAUP, both unlimited by state

law or IHL policy.

Thomas stressed that faculty cannot be constrained from speaking out because, as scholars, they “have a responsibility to the state and our larger public to speak on public concern.” He believes that academic freedom is especially important on a campus like Ole Miss’s that has a “history of suppressing academic freedom.”

“We have a responsibility to be a beacon and leader on these issues,” Thomas said. “That involves risk, and we are a risk-averse institution. We can’t be risk-averse. We have to be the ones out there taking the chances. I’m not trying to do harm. ... It’s about rebuilding.”

Thomas also hopes that even his critics on social media recognize that when he takes to Twitter, it's not too far off base from what he believes it means to "publicly engage."

William Nowell, a former student of Thomas's who graduated in December 2018, said that Thomas's Twitter presence didn't come up in class, though most students knew about it. He didn't think Thomas's statement could be considered inappropriate or more threatening than any other political tweets.

“I’ve met a great many different professors ... and I consider Dr. Thomas as one among the best professors I’ve had as an undergraduate,” Nowell said.

Now, months later, Thomas

doesn't think his tweet was out of line.

"I am who I am, and my commitments are what they are," he said. "I have to do my part. I'm sorry it's taken up so much time of people's days, but I don't regret a single thing I said."

Information obtained from a public records request revealed that the university requested Thomas's class schedule in the days after his tweet, which Guajardo maintains was so "UPD would know where and when he was in the classroom in order to most effectively address the security concerns that arose in response to Dr. Thomas's tweet."


However, Thomas isn't so sure. He spoke to the ACLU, along with the AAUP and his regional union representatives, in case he lost his job.

These days, Thomas said, he plans to be a bit more cautious on social media as university faculty, though he will “speak truth to power when it needs to be spoken.”

"I love coming to work every day. I love this campus, and I love working in Mississippi because if you have commitments to anti-racism and fighting poverty and combating inequality, then Mississippi is the place for you, so I see it as the place for me," he said. "Now, I have a bit more clarity about the degree to which those commitments are fully embraced by the university brand."

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## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Ole Miss ends season 9-21 after loss to Tennessee

**JAKE DAVIS**  
THEDMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

The Ole Miss women's basketball team closed out its regular season with a home loss to Tennessee on Sunday. The Rebels finished 9-21 this season, 3-13 in conference, dropping their final five games of the season after a win over Vanderbilt at home on Feb. 14.

The Rebels struggled in their final game of the regular season, falling to the Volunteers 81-56 in Oxford. Red-shirt senior Crystal Allen got the scoring going with five quick points in the opening minutes, hitting a 3-pointer after a steal by fellow redshirt senior Shandricka Sessom.

It would all be downhill from there, however, as Tennessee scored the next eight points and ended the first quarter on a 23-8 run. Allen finished with 10 points in the quarter but also committed

2 key turnovers. The Rebels committed 8 total turnovers in the period, with ball control being an issue.

The second quarter would prove to be even more disappointing for the Rebs, with the only bright spot being some aggressive play from redshirt senior La'Karis Salter. She came up with the only two baskets of the period for Ole Miss as they watched their deficit grow from 10 to 24 in the quarter. Salter played aggressive defense and provided the only offense of the quarter for the Rebs, who struggled to get open looks throughout the period.

The third quarter was a high-scoring affair for both sides, and while Ole Miss was finally able to score consistently, its permeable defense led to open looks for the Volunteers. The Rebels saw their deficit grow to 35 on a jumper from Tennessee's Rae Burrell and failed to make any sizable dent in the Ten-



PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER

Ole Miss guard Crystal Allen drives the ball downcourt on Sunday. Allen scored 30 points during the game, more than any other player.

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- 5 El \_\_\_\_
- 8 Cracked
- 12 Corona fruit
- 13 Clogs, e.g.
- 15 Venture
- 16 Med. school course
- 17 Polynesian porch
- 18 Impressed
- 19 Denizens
- 22 Foul
- 23 Mus. slow-up
- 24 Water pitcher
- 26 Indian religious leader
- 29 Sayings
- 31 Jailbird
- 32 Spine-tingling
- 34 Marsh of mystery
- 36 Poop
- 38 Corrodes
- 40 Distort
- 41 Country singer Gibbs
- 43 Commonplace
- 45 Holiday start
- 46 Midday nap
- 48 Clothes
- 50 Bahrain bigwig
- 51 Append

52 Light brown color,  
common to pale  
sunworshippers  
54 Capable of being  
suspended  
61 Icelandic epic  
63 Puppeteer Lewis  
64 Put a lid \_\_\_\_!  
65 Window ledge  
66 Tending to a definite  
end  
67 Story  
68 Pairs into words  
69 Peer Gynt's mother  
70 Poses

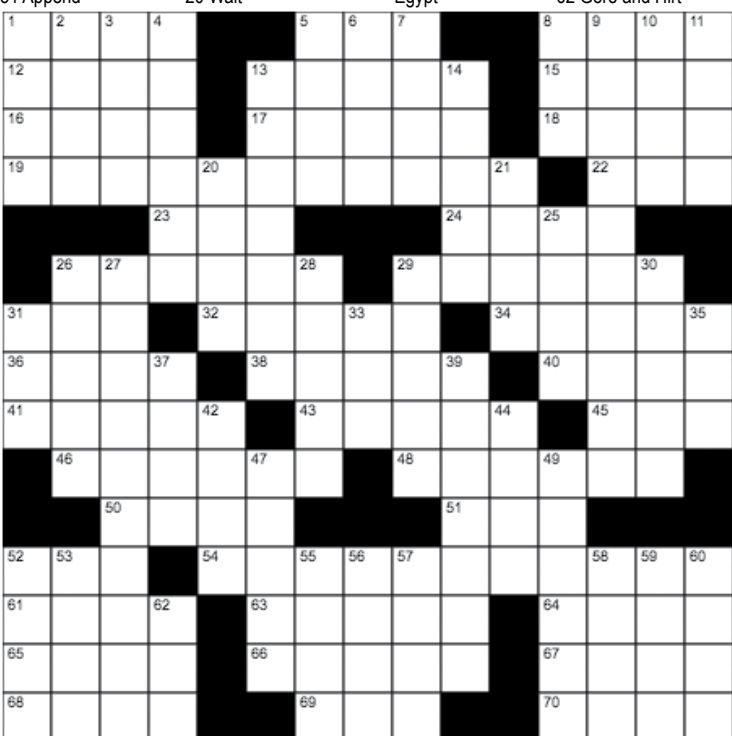
**DOWN**

- 1 Jai \_\_\_\_
- 2 Waterfall
- 3 Eastern nanny
- 4 Hinder
- 5 FDR's fireside \_\_\_\_
- 6 New Rochelle  
college
- 7 Official with a list
- 8 Oklahoma city
- 9 Word that is hard to  
pronounce
- 10 District
- 11 Funny Foxx
- 13 Slide
- 14 Located
- 20 Wait

## SOLUTION TO 3.1 2019 PUZZLE



21 Stately aquatic bird	44 Former Fords
25 Ova	47 Confidence
26 Skeleton	49 Foolish persons
27 Hostile	52 Mrs. Dick Tracy
28 Caribbean island	53 1998 Sarah McLachlan hit
29 State Farm rival	55 Queens stadium
30 Sift	56 Friends
31 Op. ____	57 Cleveland's lake
33 This ____ stickup!	58 ____ B'rith
35 Be in debt	59 Light air
37 Utah city	60 Hot times abroad
39 Diabolical	62 Gore and Hirt
42 Fertility goddess of Fovnt.	



Crossword puzzle provided by BestCrosswords.com ([www.bestcrosswords.com](http://www.bestcrosswords.com)). Used with permission.

nessee lead.

Allen contributed 7 more points in the quarter, scoring more freely and creating opportunities for her teammates along the way. Ole Miss committed 6 turnovers in the period but recovered well in transition and allowed just 3 points off of those turnovers.

A layup by freshman Taylor Smith cut the Volunteers' lead to 31 entering the final quarter. The Rebels refused to go down without a fight.

Crystal Allen championed the Rebels in the fourth quarter, posting an impressive 13 points in the quarter to bring her total to 30 for the game.

She hit the only 3 3-pointers of the game for Ole Miss as the team continued to struggle with shooting the ball from outside.

Freshman Gabby Crawford was a bright spot for the Rebels, scoring 16 points on 6-for-8 shooting while also recording 9 boards and a steal.

Salter and Sessom both struggled in their final regular season game for Ole Miss. Salter managed just 4 points on 2-4 shooting, all of which came in the second quarter. Sessom finished the game scoreless on 5 shots, including two misses from beyond 3-point range. She did man-

age to contribute 5 boards, an assist and a steal.

The Rebels closed out their regular season on a foul note but managed to finish 12th in the SEC after being voted last by coaches in the preseason poll. Their focus now shifts to the first round of the SEC Tournament in Greenville, South Carolina, where they will play what could be their final game of the season.

Ole Miss will take on the Florida Gators on March 6 in the first round of the SEC Tournament.



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5								8
	6			5	1		4	
	9				4	5	7	2
	7			2	9	8		
	2		4		8		5	
		1	7	3			9	
2	5	7	9				3	
	4		1	7			2	
3								6

## HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

**DIFFICULTY LEVEL**

## NOVICE

3	1	9	5	4	2	7	8	6
8	4	6	1	7	3	9	2	5
2	5	7	9	8	6	4	3	1
6	8	1	7	3	5	2	9	4
9	2	3	4	1	8	6	5	7
4	7	5	6	2	9	8	1	3
1	9	8	3	6	4	5	7	2
7	6	2	8	5	1	3	4	9
5	3	4	2	9	7	1	6	8



MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Rebels drop second straight game in final seconds

JACK GENTRY  
THEDMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

For the third consecutive game, the Ole Miss men's basketball team, 19-10 (9-7), found itself in a one-possession game with under 20 seconds to play. And for the second game in a row, the Rebels lost on the final possession of the contest, falling 74-73 on the road to Arkansas, a team that sits at 15-14 (6-10).

Ole Miss was in control for much of the first half, trailing for just 1:27 in the first 20 minutes of action. It was an efficient half for both teams. Ole Miss shot 50 percent from the floor, and Arkansas saw 54 percent of its shots go down.

Despite holding a lead for the majority of the half, the Rebels would cling to a 35-34 advantage at halftime. Blake Hinson and Terence Davis paced the Rebels with 7 points apiece heading into the locker room. Daniel Gafford led the way for the Razorbacks with 11 first-half points.

The second half was back-and-forth with 19 lead changes and four ties in the last 20 minutes alone. Tyree's lack of production in the first half faded away, with 17 of his 20 points coming after halftime. Mason Jones, on the other hand, knocked down 4 threes en route to 16 second-half points for Arkansas.

The Rebels had possession with 40 seconds to play and an opportunity to build on its 73-72 lead. Tyree, who missed the front ends of one-and-ones in the final minute of each of the last two games, lost his dribble, creating a scramble for the loose ball that resulted in a jump ball where Arkansas was awarded possession.

After the turnover, Arkansas's Jalen Harris slashed to the rim and scored the game-winner with five seconds left on the clock.

"We guarded really well for a long period of time,"



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Ole Miss guard Breein Tyree shoots a 3 pointer at the game against Arkansas on Jan. 19. The Rebels won 84-67 but narrowly lost in their second game against Arkansas this season on Saturday with a final score of 73-74.

head coach Kermit Davis said. "(Dominik Olejniczak) made a good play to block it. Harris just kissed it high off the glass. Give him credit. He made a good shot."

Following a Kermit Davis timeout, countered by a timeout from Arkansas, Ole Miss broke the huddle needing to go the length of the court to get a quality shot. Tyree inbounded

the ball to Olejniczak, who then threw the ball away after a failed handoff attempt to Tyree, allowing Arkansas to bleed out the remainder of the clock.

"We've been running it for a long time, and that's the first time I've ever had a guy in history not hand it to him," Kermit Davis said. "It is what it is. I'll take full responsibility for it."

Tyree paced the Rebels with

20 points and 5 assists and was followed by a trio of Rebels — Terence Davis, Bruce Stevens and Devontae Shuler — who finished with 12 points. Terence Davis scored his 12 points coming off of the bench after D.C. Davis was slotted in the starting lineup. Arkansas's Jones scored 22 points while Gafford chipped in 17 of his own.

The Rebels will suit up next

on Tuesday night, when the Kentucky Wildcats, 24-5 (13-3), travel to Oxford. The contest will occur on Senior Night when Terence Davis, Bruce Stevens and D.C Davis will suit up in their final game in The Pavilion.

The Wildcats sit at No. 3 in the SEC and are coming off an emotional defeat in their matchup with Tennessee on Saturday.



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BASEBALL

# Bases loaded: Dillard propels Rebels to sweep

JOSH GOLLIHAR  
THEDMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

Ole Miss baseball prevented Long Beach State from collecting its first win of the season, with clutch hitting from familiar faces and unknown heroes, allowing the Rebels to slip past the Dirtbags.

**First base:** Austin Miller is having the best season of any Ole Miss pitcher.

Austin Miller was the third pitcher to enter Friday's game for Ole Miss. After Houston Roth surrendered two runs in the fifth inning, Miller replaced him. The junior finished the last 4.0 innings of the game, earning his second win of the season.

In 10.1 innings pitched, he has surrendered a single run and struck out seven. With starting pitching being questionable at best to this point, and with Houston Roth's slow start, Miller and Max Cioffi have proven to be reliable inning eaters.

**Second base:** The starting rotation took a step toward improvement.

The starting rotation was back to its normal makeup for the first time since opening weekend. Will Ethridge's absence due to a blister on his throwing hand forced head coach Mike Bianco to shuffle his rotation in the series against Tulane.

In his two starts, Ethridge has allowed no earned runs. However,

he has only thrown 8.2 innings. Bianco limited his Friday outing to 3.0 innings and only 32 pitches. The pitch count was a precaution against the return of Ethridge's throwing-hand blister.

Zack Phillips got his third start of the season on Saturday in a walk-off win against Long Beach State. His 5.0 innings and five strikeouts were both season highs. His performance lowered his earned run average from 10.29 to 6.35.

Freshman Gunnar Hoglund took the mound in his familiar third spot in the rotation. The freshman spread six hits across 5.0 innings of work, allowing a single run. The one run he surrendered was a solo home run, but other than that blip on the radar, Hoglund seems to be adjusting quickly to his role as an SEC starting pitcher.

The one caveat to the rotation's strong weekend performance is the poor quality of the opponent. Long Beach State entered the weekend with a record of 0-7, and left with a record of 0-10. This version of the Dirtbags is not of the same quality that they have been in year's past. Having a mostly positive pitching performance against a middling offense is nothing to celebrate.

Despite this, Bianco recognizes that, while Phillips and Hoglund do not earn wins in the record book, they showed good form.

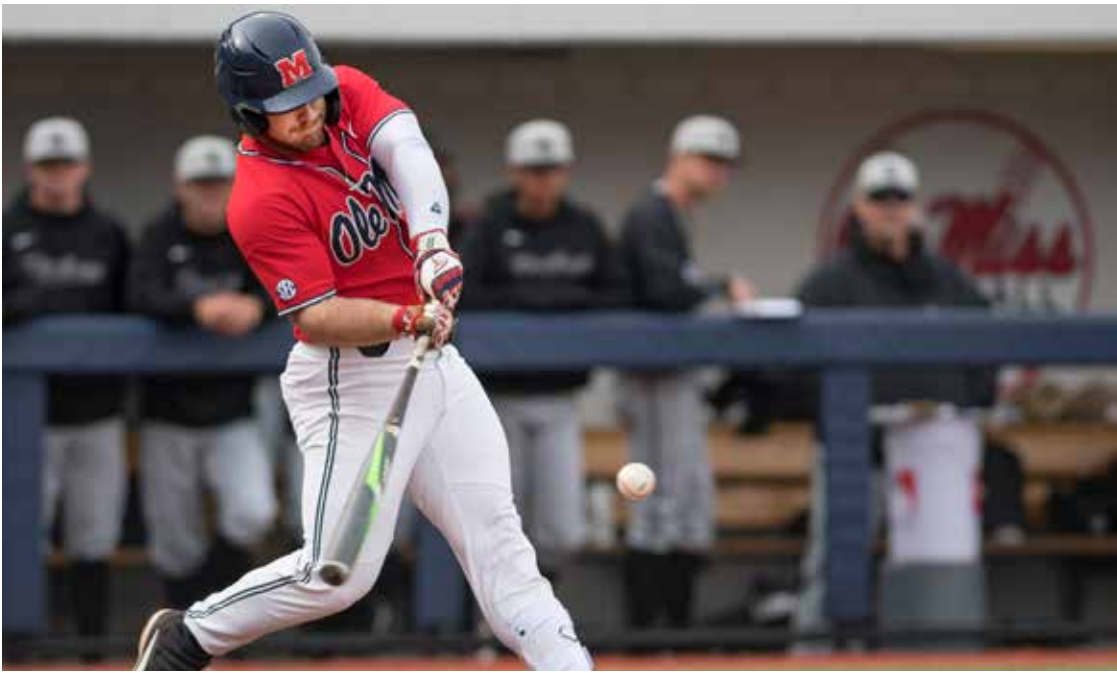


PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Ole Miss outfielder Thomas Dillard went 4-for-12 at the plate in the series against Long Beach State. Dillard hit a walk off home run in game two on Saturday, giving the Rebels a 7-6 victory.

"Best outing of the year," Bianco said about Hoglund. "He pitched with a lot more confidence. Phillips looked good too. It is unfortunate that neither one gets the win."

**Third base:** Ryan Olenek and Thomas Dillard are acting as life preservers.

While the lineup has produced big innings, they can go innings without threatening the opposition. Ryan Olenek and Thomas Dillard are locked in a competition to see who can out-hit the other. Olenek finished the series

against Long Beach State with an average of .475, and Dillard finished with an average of .436.

Dillard secured a win in the first game on Saturday with a walk-off homer to right center field. The solo shot was the only hit he had in the game, proving that his bat can affect the game at any plate appearance.

"On 2-0, he threw a ball inside," Dillard recalled. "If he is going to try and throw it there, I am going to be ready."

**At the plate:** Justin Bench clinches the sweep.

Both games during the doubleheader were decided late. Dillard performed his heroics in the early game. The hero in the nightcap was true freshman Justin Bench. In only the third plate appearance of his career, Bench singled home two runs in the eighth inning, breaking the tie.

Bench entered the game for Michael Fitzsimmons, who pinch hit for Jacob Adams. The hit could prove valuable a few months from now when RPI calculations start deciding national seeding.



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